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Ontario

Ontario Women's Directorate

NEWSRELEASE

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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT HELPING WOMEN GET BETTER JOBS
Promoting Women's Economic Independence

QUEEN'S PARK – The Ontario government today announced funding that will enable Francophone women to receive pre-apprenticeship training in welding at La Cité collégiale in Hawkesbury through the government's Women in Skilled Trades program (WIST).

"Our government is committed to helping women learn the skills they need to secure good jobs and become economically independent," said Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues. "WIST is also helping to address Ontario's skills shortages by offering training in trades that are in high demand in specific areas."

La Cité collégiale will receive up to $214,071 from the Ontario Women's Directorate to deliver the pre-apprenticeship training program for up to 15 women. Classes start in September.

"I am very pleased that our government is supporting the first training course in welding to be offered in French at the Hawkesbury campus," said Jean-Marc Lalonde, MPP for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell. "It gives local Francophone women a chance to train for well-paying jobs in a trade that we need in this area."

The WIST program targets unemployed and low-income women and provides pre-apprenticeship training in a range of skilled trades. It includes in-school training and a paid on-the-job work placement with local employers. Government funding covers the women's tuition fees and other costs related to the program such as supplies.

"Our company has a growing need for qualified welders," says Suzanne Sheldon, Human Resources Manager for Dart Aerospace Ltd. in Hawkesbury. "We are looking forward to participating in the pre-apprenticeship program by providing on-the-job training for students."

The WIST program also supports a variety of training programs at five other locations: General Carpentry at Georgian College in Barrie; New Home Service Technician/General Carpentry at the Centre for Skills Development and Training in Burlington; General Carpentry at Conestoga College in Guelph; Native Residential Construction at Northern College in Moosonee and Industrial Electrician at Algonquin College in Ottawa.

For further information about the program at Hawkesbury call Danielle Brazeau at 613-632-2483, ext. 28.

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